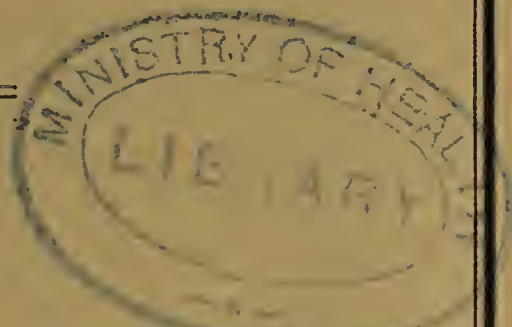


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**THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF SPENNYMOOR**



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

**MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH**

FOR THE YEAR

1953

Together with the Summary of Work
of the Senior Sanitary Inspector and
Cleansing Officer

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF SPENNYMOOR

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

OTHER RECORDS

FOR THE YEAR

1953

DURHAM :

G BAILES & SONS, PRINTERS

1954.

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THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SPENNYMOOR

Chairman of the Council 1953-54

Councillor G. Thompson, J.P.

Vice-Chairman

Councillor T. Sugden

Chairman of the Health Committee

Councillor Mrs. M. Corner

Vice-Chairman

Councillor J. T. Richardson

Chairman of the Housing Committee

Councillor T. W. Marley

Vice-Chairman

Councillor F. Coverdale

COUNCILLORS

Mrs. L. Anderson, Miss S. Anderson, E. Bell, Dr. E. Brauer, J. A. R. Clark,
Mrs. E. Dobson, J. C. Glasper, W. Hirst, F. Howells, M. Hopper, J. T. Kane,
T. Murray, J. McMahon, H. Scott, B. Taylor.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health (Part Time)

Dr. S. V. Tinsley, M.B., Ch.B., J.P.

Sanitary Inspectors

M. W. Swales, M.R.San.I., A.M.I.S.E.
G. Blenkinsop, Cert.S.I.B.

Clerical Assistant

J. B. Storey

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in once more submitting my Annual Report. That the whole Urban District with over 20,000 inhabitants should be clear of such a serious disease as diphtheria throughout the year proves the efficiency of the preventative measures taken. It is almost miraculous.

The Vital Statistics are also very sound and show a healthy population. The Birth Rate is well maintained, the Death Rate is low and the Infant Mortality Rate has dropped from 77.5 in 1936 to 19.72 in 1953. Also the Still Birth Rate shows signs of falling. All this shows that your Urban District is a healthy place to live in and compares very favourably with the County as a whole. Your efforts in improving the Housing, Sewerage, Care of Refuse Tips, the County Clinics, etc., are bearing fruit.

It is also pleasing to note the improvements taking place in the Shop frontages and Public Houses and the great efforts of the Garden Guild.

I would like to express my thanks to the kindness and courtesy of my Health Committee and all members of the Staff which make my Office a great pleasure to me.

I am proud to be Medical Officer of Health to such a progressive and thriving Community.

S. V. TINSLEY, M.B., Ch.B., J.P.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Population

The Registrar General's figure calculated to the middle of 1953 gives the resident population of the District as 20,050. This figure represents an increase of 50 on the previous year and an increase of 1,010 on the 1939 figure. This figure of 20,050 represents our highest post war population.

The approximate population of the various Wards of the District has been assessed as follows:—

Spennymoor Ward	...	...	4,706
Low Spennymoor Ward	...	...	3,495
Middlestone Moor Ward	...	...	1,663
Kirk Merrington Ward	...	...	958
Byers Green Ward	...	...	1,599
Tudhoe Ward	...	...	7,629
Total Population			<u>20,050</u>

Area

The District covers 7,494 acres and includes the villages of Middlestone Moor, Byers Green and Kirk Merrington, with an acreage of:—

Spennymoor Ward	...	...	168
Low Spennymoor Ward	...	...	551
Middlestone Moor Ward	...	...	1,349
Kirk Merrington Ward	...	...	1,612
Byers Green Ward	...	...	1,115
Tudhoe Ward	...	...	2,699
Total Acreage			<u>7,494</u>

Inhabited Houses

The estimated number of inhabited houses in the District according to our records at the end of December, 1953, was 6,004 (105 new houses built principally by Council Building Programme, less 38 houses vacated under Clearance Orders or Demolition Orders).

Rateable Value

The Rateable Value of the District according to the Rating Officer is £82,061 and the product of a penny rate £309.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 1953 WITH COMPARISONS OF THE PRE-WAR AND POST-WAR PERIODS.

Births 1953

<i>Live Births:—</i>		Male	Female	Total	Birth Rate
Legitimate	...	176	167	343)	17.70
Illegitimate	...	8	4	12)	
		<hr/> 184	<hr/> 171	<hr/> 355	
<i>Still Births:—</i>		Male	Female	Total	Birth Rate
Legitimate	...	6	2	8)	0.40
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—)	
		<hr/> 6	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 8	

For comparative purposes the rates are given for the three previous years and for the three years immediately prior to the War:—

1936	Live Births	271	giving a Birth Rate of				17.50	per	1,000
	Still	18	„	„	„	„	1.17	„	„
1937	Live	318	„	„	„	„	17.20	„	„
	Still	16	„	„	„	„	0.86	„	„
1938	Live	319	„	„	„	„	16.50	„	„
	Still	9	„	„	„	„	0.46	„	„
1950	Live	417	„	„	„	„	20.83	„	„
	Still	14	„	„	„	„	0.70	„	„
1951	Live	365	„	„	„	„	18.49	„	„
	Still	17	„	„	„	„	0.86	„	„
1952	Live	383	„	„	„	„	19.15	„	„
	Still	12	„	„	„	„	0.60	„	„

Extracts from National Statistics are given for comparative purposes:—

		Spennymoor District	England & Wales	160 County Boroughs	160 Smaller Towns.
Births	...	17.70	15.5	17.00	15.7
Still Births	...	0.40	0.35	0.43	0.34

Whereas the National figures show an increase in the Birth Rate over the previous year, this District has a reduction of 1.45 per 1,000 population to 17.70 which still remains favourable in comparison with the National figures.

I am pleased to report a reduction of .20 in the Still Birth Rate which is the lowest figure we have had for some years, and the second consecutive reduction to be reported. For many years our Still Birth Rate has been higher than the National figures, the above reduction brings our figures more into line with National statistics.

Deaths 1953

		Male.	Female.	Total.	Rate.
Deaths	...	102	111	213	10.62
Infant Mortality		4	3	7	19.72 per 1,000 Births.

Pre-War and Post-War periods are enumerated for comparison.

1936	Deaths	193	deaths giving a rate of 12.16 per 1,000 pop.		
	Infant Mortality	21	„	„	„ 77.50 per 1,000 births.
1937	Deaths	236	deaths giving a rate of 12.80 per 1,000 pop.		
	Infant Mortality	24	„	„	„ 75.47 per 1,000 births.
1938	Deaths	239	deaths giving a rate of 12.30 per 1,000 pop.		
	Infant Mortality	17	„	„	„ 53.03 per 1,000 births.
1950	Deaths	241	deaths giving a rate of 12.04 per 1,000 pop.		
	Infant Mortality	19	„	„	„ 45.56 per 1,000 births.
1951	Deaths	252	deaths giving a rate of 12.77 per 1,000 pop.		
	Infant Mortality	14	„	„	„ 38.36 per 1,000 births.
1952	Deaths	215	deaths giving a rate of 10.75 per 1,000 pop.		
	Infant Mortality	14	„	„	„ 36.55 per 1,000 births.

Extracts from National Statistics are given for comparative purposes: —

		Spennymoor District.	England & Wales.	160 County Boroughs.	160 Smaller Towns.
Deaths	...	10.62	11.4	12.2	11.3
Infant Mortality	per				
1,000 Births	...	19.72	26.8	30.8	24.3

The Infant Mortality Rate shows great improvement, being 54% less than the 1952 figure and much lower than the National Statistics.

I consider the above statistics for this District to be satisfactory. Although our Birth Rate is reduced, the figures indicate a normal virile population, with 81% of the deaths being people over 50 years of age.

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Males.	Females.
All Causes	102	111
Tuberculosis, respiratory system	2	2
Tuberculosis, other	1	—
Syphilitic disease	—	1
Whooping Cough	—	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	5
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	10	6
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1
Diabetes	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	18	21
Coronary disease, angina	18	12
Hypertension with heart disease	2	1
Other heart disease	13	21
Other circulatory disease	3	5
Influenza	—	1
Pneumonia	—	4
Bronchitis	5	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	3
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	6
All other accidents	4	3
Suicide	2	1

Heart diseases and those of the nervous system account for 53% of the total number of deaths.

Deaths according to Age Groups

	-5	-15	-25	-50	-75	75-	Total all
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	ages.
Males	4	2	—	18	48	30	102
Females	4	—	—	12	61	34	111
							<hr/>
							213

TUBERCULOSIS 1953

The following cases remained on the Register at the end of the year: —

		Pulmonary.	Non Pulmonary.
Males	...	80	19
Females	...	77	26
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		157	45
		<hr/>	<hr/>

The above figures represent a decrease of two cases on the previous year.

The number of deaths from the disease represents 2.48% of the cases on the register, being .52% above last year's figure.

The number of known Tuberculosis cases in the District represents 1.01% of the population, this being .01% below last year's figure.

Mass Radiography

Mass Radiography Unit visited the District from 25th May to the 5th June, 1953. A very welcome increase in the interest of the male population is noted in the results of this visit, also organised groups have continued to support the authorities concerned.

284 males and 476 females attended the Unit for examination, the total number of films taken represents 6.2% of the population and the abnormalities revealed were 7 active and 8 inactive tuberculosis cases together with 25 cases of non-tuberculous conditions.

The percentage of total number of films taken in the County District was 6.54% compared with the above 6.2% in this District.

SUMMARY OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATIONS

Age Group	Under 1 year	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25 years and over
Scarlet Fever	—	3	22	61	17	2	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	1	—	—	—

Tuberculosis

MALES

Pulmonary	—	—	—	—	1	—	8
Non Pulmonary	—	—	—	—	—	1	—

FEMALES

Pulmonary	—	—	—	—	—	1	4
Non Pulmonary	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

TABULAR STATEMENT OF THE NOTIFICATION OF OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR

Diseases.						Cases notified.
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	105
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	147
Acute Poliomyelitis:						
Paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	1
Non Paralytic		...	...	...	...	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	156
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	22
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	1
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	—
Acute Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—
Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	...	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	1
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	...	...	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	—
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	...	...	5
Scabies	...	...	...	...	...	1

In comparison with the previous year it will be noted that the incidence of Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough is double the previous year, the Measles outbreak experienced in 1952 gradually abated during the first half of 1953 and only 5 cases of measles were notified in the second half of the year.

Diphtheria, Enteric Fever and other malignant infectious diseases have been absent from this District during the year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than TUBERCULOSIS) during 1953 MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFICATIONS

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals.
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	7	3	8	1	9	18	22	10	11	6	5	5	105
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	7	4	1	—	5	—	—	1	—	1	1	2	22
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis Acute—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paralytic ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Non-Paralytic ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	9	7	27	25	60	23	2	2	1	—	—	—	156
Chicken Pox ...	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Whooping Cough ...	3	3	10	11	26	31	20	11	12	4	10	6	147
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scabies ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Monthly Totals ...	26	17	47	41	100	73	44	25	25	11	17	13	439

NOTIFICATIONS BY WARDS (CIVILIAN)

Disease	Spennymoor	Low Spennymoor	Middlestone Moor	Byers Green	Merrington	Tudhoe	TOTAL
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	30	11	7	12	4	41	105
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	5	1	2	5	—	9	22
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis Acute	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paralytic	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Non Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	24	5	6	77	6	38	156
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken Pox	1	—	1	—	—	3	5
Whooping Cough	26	13	11	9	9	79	147
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scabies	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary	3	4	3	—	—	4	14
Non Pulmonary	1	—	—	1	—	—	2

Diphtheria Immunisation

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the year. The responsibility for immunisation arrangements for children rests with the County Council.

I hope that the absence of cases in the District does not lead to complacency neither of the public nor medical practitioners. It is most important that immunisation be carried out of all children during the first year of infancy.

The following particulars have been supplied by the County Authority of immunisation work relating to this area for the year under review: —

	Age 0-4 yrs. inclusive.	Age 5-14 yrs. inclusive.
Total number of children immunised during 1953 ...	201	4

In addition 29 reinforcing injections have been administered to children in the area.

Scabies

One case of Scabies was notified and was successfully treated by the notifying Medical Practitioner.

Ambulance Service

The County Council is the responsible authority for the administration of an Ambulance Service covering the whole of the County, with the exception of County Boroughs. The arrangements so far as this district is concerned appear to work smoothly and few complaints of delays and missed calls are now received.

**To the Chairman and Members
of the Spennymoor Urban District Council**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in reporting on the work of your Sanitary Department during the Year 1953.

Public Health Acts

A considerable amount of our work is undertaken according to the requirements and authorities contained in the Public Health Acts. Where formal action was required to secure the completion of necessary repairs to property, this was taken under the Nuisance clauses of these Acts rather than as provided for in the Housing Acts owing to the Council's reluctance to undertake work in default of owners.

The number of Informal Notices served was slightly higher than the previous year and the number of Statutory Notices was lower. More than 90% of our work is carried out on informal action and it was only necessary to ask for the Council's authority to serve Statutory Notices in 42 cases and the only legal action authorised was withdrawn before the case proceeded to Court. The owners and agents of property in the District have on the whole proved most co-operative in carrying out necessary property repairs and our greatest difficulty has been in many instances to secure the completion of work by contractors authorised to undertake the repairs on behalf of owners. The number of contractors available for general property repairs is small and these contractors find great difficulty in obtaining and keeping skilled tradesmen owing to the greater incentives and pleasanter work available on new building operations. The cost of repairs to owners is therefore increasing.

Housing

The lists of Housing Applications revised during the previous year were repointed during 1953 when it was noted that the number of applicants remaining on the Two-Bedroomed Sub-Tenants list was still formidable. The number of new applications received is approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the Council's present building programme.

During the year an effort was made to recommence our pre-war Slum Clearance activities, 47 properties in the Kirk Merrington

Ward scheduled by the Council, but not confirmed by the Ministry owing to the outbreak of War, were reinspected and scheduled by the Council. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government confirmed these Orders with slight modifications.

Work of inspection and representation was carried out to 131 properties forming three Areas in the Byers Green Ward suitable for action as Clearance and Compulsory Purchase Areas. These areas formed the first part of the Council's Redevelopment Scheme for the Village.

36 houses represented as Individual Unfit properties were dealt with during the Year. These houses are situated in the Byers Green, Low Spennymoor and Spennymoor Wards.

A considerable amount of Clearance work will have to be undertaken in the District and it is very necessary that this work should be integrated with the Council's Rehousing Programme.

Public Cleansing

Every effort has been made to maintain a weekly collection of all ash receptacles within the Urban District. This has sometimes been very difficult owing to absences of staff through illness and holidays. With a small staff, substitute drivers and fillers are not available for transfer to Refuse Collection. The services of temporary staff obtained from the Employment Exchange have been utilised when available.

Considerable improvement has been noted in the condition of our refuse tips with the use of the Angledozer purchased in 1952. Levelling, cleaning and consolidation of the tips is now satisfactory and the comparative freedom of the tips from face fires is mainly due to the better consolidation of the refuse with this machine.

Salvage collections have been maintained during the year and the greatly reduced value of this material when sold has resulted in a small excess of expenditure over income. This loss can be offset by the fact that if this material was not sold as salvage, it would have to be disposed of as refuse, the Council bearing the full cost of disposal of "House Refuse" and part of the cost of "Trade Refuse". In addition, the exclusion of as much paper and tins as possible from the refuse tips improves the condition of these tips.

Privy Conversions

A commencement has been made on the conversion of approximately 900 ashclosets by Council contract and 300 conversions in a contract from the National Coal Board. The completion of these contracts will clear the centre of the District of such receptacles and it is hoped that further schemes of conversion will be undertaken in the remaining Wards when the present contracts are completed. The completion of this work will necessitate the readjustment of certain carting sections on Refuse Collections to provide the labour for bin lifting.

May I with all respects express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for a continuance of the consideration and support which has been my privilege for many years, to the Officers of other Departments for willing co-operation, to the Office Staff for dealing with increasing clerical work and to the Cleansing Staff who have carried out their heavy and often unpleasant duties conscientiously during the year.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

M. W. SWALES,

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Officer.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

Summary of Notices served and work done in the Sanitary Inspector's Department, during the Year 1953

1. Public Health Acts :—

		Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice
Dwellinghouses	Foul conditions	16	—	16
and	Structural defects	187	42	92
Schools	Overcrowding	—	—	—
Ashpits and Privies		38	—	24
Deposits of Refuse and Manure		2	—	1
Waterclosets		2	—	2
House	Defective traps	—	—	—
Drainage	Other faults	425	—	425
Water Supply		2	—	2
Pigsties		—	—	—
Animals Improperly kept		1	—	1
	Totals:	673	42	563

2. Water, Food and Drugs :—

				Number
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	...	...	...	33
Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use	...	...	...	—
Seizures of Unwholesome Food	...	...	...	—
Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food	...	...	...	—
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis	...	...	...	12
Samples found Adulterated	...	...	...	—

3. Precautions against Infectious Disease :—

Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed	...	...	—
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	...	130
Schools disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	...	2

4. General :—

Number of New Houses erected during year	...	...	105
Number of such Houses occupied during year	...	...	105
Ashpit-privies converted into Ash-closets	...	...	—
Ashclosets converted into Water-closets	...	...	532
Ashpit-privies converted into water-closets	...	...	—
Total number of Water-closets in District	...	...	3,886
Total number of Ashclosets in District	...	...	2,134
Total number of Ashpit-privies in District	...	...	68

Infestation

During the year 49 dwellinghouses were treated for vermin by the Council staff at the request of the occupiers and many occupiers were also advised on the remedial measures to take to keep their premises clear of various types of insects. The woodwork of two new Council houses was successfully treated for golden spider beetle.

In conjunction with the occupiers of many food premises, the store rooms were effectively treated to reduce the summer fly problems of such premises.

Insecticides containing DDT have continued to be used successfully.

Rodent Control

The Council's part-time Rodent Operator, Mr. J. W. Greaves, has continued to deal efficiently with any rodent infestation found to exist in the area. No major infestations have been found, the number of minor mice infestations treated has increased to about 30% of the complaints received.

The Council properties including the refuse tips have been regularly examined and only three small infestations were found and treated.

The increasing number of ashcloset conversions to the "Water Carriage System" will eliminate many of the potential sources of food supply for rats close to dwellinghouses. Several complaints received were of rats seen in such receptacles and after treatment many bodies were recovered from the closets.

It has not proved necessary to enlist the assistance of any operators from the Regional Office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries as all infestations were within the capacity of our Operator. It is reassuring to know that such help would be immediately available should the necessity arise.

MEASURES OF CONTROL BY COUNCIL STAFF

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricul- tural	All other (including business premises)	Total
i. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	16	6,004	40	203	6,263
ii. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1953 as a result of					
(a) Notification	(a) —	48	2	9	59
(b) Survey or otherwise	(b) 3	29	—	3	35
iii. Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by rats.	Major — Minor 3	— 54	— 2	— 4	— 63
iv. Number of infested properties treated by the Local Authority	3	77	2	12	94
v. Number of 'block' control schemes carried out					9

Meat and other Foods Inspection, Transport and Handling

The Ministry of Food has continued to operate the centralised slaughtering of all home killed meat at the abattoir situated in Bishop Auckland and supplying meat to the surrounding districts including Spennymoor. The inspection of these carcasses is carried out by Bishop Auckland Urban District Council staff before the meat leaves the slaughterhouse and the meat allocated for this district is then conveyed by well equipped vans to a local allocation centre and thence to the various butchers' shops.

A number of certificates have been issued to butchers for small quantities of meat or offal found to be unfit for sale when allocated to them. This meat has been readily replaced by the Ministry distributors, particulars of such condemnations are included in the following list.

The Ministry of Food has already erected about five regional abattoirs in the Country and it is understood that these are being worked to capacity to ascertain the possible throughput of animals, with a view to possible improvements in subsequent abattoirs to be established in various parts of the Country when a system of "Moderate Concentration" of slaughtering takes place.

The number of cottagers' pigs slaughtered for bacon in the district has again been reduced as many regular feeders have given up the keeping of pigs.

Visits have been made to food establishments which have been found to be well conducted and free from any serious criticism, and suggestions made for improved food handling have been readily adopted.

The quantities of tinned foods inspected and condemned continues to be high and is an indication of the care taken by the staffs of the various food Shops to see that the articles offered for sale are in all respects fit for food.

The numbers of types of food permits established in the District are summarised herewith:—

Food Premises (Registrations)

Grocers	...	58	Confectioners	...	18
Bakehouses	...	6	Cafe's	...	4
Butchers	...	20	Ice-cream		
			Manufacturers	...	3

Premises registered for the sale of ice-cream under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 ... 32.

Premises registered for the preparation of food under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 ... 14.

Premises registered for the sale of designated milk under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 ... 44.

Food Inspections, Visits and Sampling

During the year 108 visits were made to various types of food premises. Many of these visits were made in connection with the taking of informal samples of ice-cream and mineral water bottles for bacteriological assessment.

Twelve ice-cream samples were submitted to the Government laboratory and of this number six were placed in the highest group Grade 1; four in Grade 2; one in Grade 3 and one in Grade 4.

The greatest co-operation was received from the local ice-cream manufacturers and every effort was made to find the cause and remedy any defect where ice-cream samples were found to be below the highest grade.

In collaboration with a local mineral water manufacturer experiments were carried out with various sterilising materials and the varying of cleansing methods in an effort to reduce the bacterial count of cleansed mineral water bottles before filling took place. These experiments were successful in reducing the bacteriological counts on sample bottles from "Uncountable" down to limits considered to be highly satisfactory of 280 and 350 bacteria per bottle count. The greatest factor in reducing these bottle counts was the effective treatment of the bottle stoppers which were fitted with adhering rubber washers.

Many additional samples of water were taken during the year. Owing to the presence in early samples of bacillus coli regular sampling was undertaken in every part of the District and the results of these samples were reported to the Durham County Water Board.

Disposal of Unsound Food

In accordance with Ministry of Food requirements, fresh and imported meat and certain rationed foods were returned by the retailers to the wholesalers when found to be unfit for food and the necessary certificates of unfitness were issued to the retailers to send with the returned foodstuffs.

Other articles of food found to be unfit were disposed of locally for pig and poultry feeding purposes.

No special examinations of large quantities of food were undertaken during the year but the following list of articles were condemned and taken from retailers current stocks of food for sale:—

310 lbs. Meat submitted by Butchers.	221 lbs. Plums.
193 lbs. Tomatoes.	187 lbs. Cooked Ham.
27 lbs. Cheese.	59 lbs. Luncheon Meat.
15 lbs. Pineapples.	22 lbs. Peaches.
62 lbs. Stewed Steak.	107 lbs. Peas.
27 lbs. Pork Luncheon Meat.	42 lbs. Beans.
27 lbs. Jellied Veal.	23 lbs. Pears.
20 lbs. Pressed Beef.	16 lbs. Soup.
15 lbs. Pressed Pork.	11 lbs. Prunes.
11 lbs. Pork Brawn.	11 lbs. Fruit Salad.
33 lbs. Tongue.	42 lbs. Bacon.
56 lbs. Cherries.	8 lbs. Corned Beef.
17 lbs. Syrup.	31 lbs. Apples.
14 lbs. Smoked Fillets.	96 tins Milk.
3 gallons Mussels.	51 lbs. Sausage.
260 tins of Miscellaneous Foodstuffs.	18 lbs. Soya Flour.

Clean Food Propaganda

No Clean Food Campaign was organised by the Council during the Year as little interest has been shown by the Public in our previous efforts, only one application was received from a retailer for a Certificate of membership of the Clean Food Guild.

Water Supply

The whole of the property in the Urban District has piped water supplies, with the exception of a small number of isolated properties. The Durham County Water Board—of which this Council is a constituent member—supplies the water by its own system of distribution mains. The water supplied to this district is obtained from an upland surface gathering ground, it is filtered and supplied by large trunk mains passing through this Area. The quantities of water available to any part of the district is adequate but the bacteriological purity of the water was not satisfactory during the early part of the Year. This impurity was apparently only temporary. The steps taken by the Board's engineers were successful and later samples disclosed no coliform bacilli.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

With the exception of certain isolated property including Todhills, the whole of the district is sewered, the resultant sewage being treated at the Council's disposal works situated at Tudhoe Village and Byers Green and the greater portion of the Kirk Merrington Ward is connected by a new sewer to a pumping station in the Bishop Auckland Urban District whence it is pumped to their disposal works at Binchester.

The North Close area of the above-mentioned Ward and certain other isolated properties are connected to cesspools and the responsibility for emptying these cesspools is undertaken by the Council's special vehicle used for this purpose by the Surveyor's Department.

Large schemes of conversion of the ashclosets have been commenced during the Year, partly by contract by the Council, partly by the National Coal Board and others by private arrangements by property owners. Of the 784 ashclosets included in the Council Contracts 266 were converted during the year, 182 were also converted by the National Coal Board and 84 conversions by owners.

The Council contribution towards the cost of private conversions was increased on the 1st April, 1953 to £10 per conversion which represents almost a 50% grant towards the cost of this work.

During the progress of the work of conversion, the condition of the drains of dwellinghouses were exposed and many were found to be defective: six inch bench pipes being used almost without exception, with few bends and in many instances with only clay joints. The general condition of these drains is an explanation of the large number of choked drains which we experience each year.

Public Cleansing

The whole of the District is divided for cleansing purposes into four lorry and five carting sections together with a small area of the Byers Green Ward which is collected by a Hired Cart. Another lorry is employed in the collection of "trade refuse" and salvage, and the hauling of the angledozer from one refuse tip to another. Weekly refuse collections are made with the exception of a small number of privy ashpits which are cleansed at less frequent intervals. The quantities of stone in the concessionary coal issue to the mining population contributes considerable bulk and weight to the area's refuse and makes it impossible for many of the bins to be emptied by one binman.

Periodical weighings of refuse are made with attention to seasonal variations. The quantities of refuse removed to the tips is found to be very high per head of the population.

Disposal of refuse is made into tips situated at Tudhoe Colliery, The Dene, Scurr's Tip and Byers Green Tip. Controlled methods of tipping are employed in the three main tips and only dustbin refuse is allowed on the Dene owing to the proximity of housing development. The angledozer used in the consolidation and levelling of these tips has continued to prove very effective. It has also been found that fires in the faces of the tips have been almost eliminated by the compression exerted by this machine.

The receptacles serving property in the District at the end of the year consisted of:—

3,886 Dustbins; 2,134 Ashclosets and 68 Ashpits.

The estimated weight of refuse removed to tips by the Council vehicles during the year, as calculated from the seasonal weighings is:—

4,691 lorry loads, with a weight of refuse	...	10,041 tons.
5,006 cart loads, with a weight of refuse	...	3,691 „
746 hired cart loads, with a weight of refuse	...	549 „

Estimated total weight of refuse per annum ... 14,281 tons.

The Council collections of salvage show a great reduction on the previous year's. This is due to a large extent to the lack of interest in such matters by the Public. The paper content of the refuse arriving on the tips is an indication of this return to pre-war habits. Our main source of income from this material is derived from the collections from business premises. The price of the salvage has also been reduced to £6. 10. 0. per ton of baled waste paper and to £3. 15. 0. per ton for flattened tin scrap. Payments are made to operate a Salvage Bonus Scheme for the Staff and to school sports funds for salvage received from the schools. With the reduction in the income from salvage sales the payments to these funds and the Bonus Scheme have been correspondingly reduced. Bonus payments made to the Staff amounted to £72. 13. 3. and payments made to school sports funds amounted to £20. 17. 3., making a total expenditure on incentives of £93. 10. 6.

The demand for flattened tin scrap has decreased and we are now expected to pay for the carriage of this material to the scrap yard. The income, therefore, from this source will not cover the cost of handling. The removal of the tins from the surface of the refuse

tips reduces rat harbourage, improves consolidation, and tyre damage to the vehicles.

No difficulties have been experienced in the disposal of our baled waste paper; the Board Mills, with whom the Council has a five year contract, accepted the whole of our available supplies of paper. During the greater part of the year a quota was in operation. This was generously interpreted by the Mills and no objections were raised to our consignments of paper.

Details of materials sold are as follows:—

			Tons. Cwts.	
Waste Paper and Cardboard			107	10
Flattened Tin Scrap	...		16	1
Light Iron	...	...		9
Rags, etc.	...	...		2½
Total			124	2½

Monthly Salvage Income.

Month.			£	s.	d.
January	...	...	48	16	11
February	...	...	54	1	11
March	...	...	122	19	6
April	...	...	39	13	0
May	...	...	93	15	4
June	...	...	42	18	0
July)					
August )	...	...	160	6	3
September	...	...	84	16	6
October	...	...	90	16	9
November	...	...	40	19	0
December	...	...	29	3	0
			£808	6	2

Waste paper sales contributed £729. 6. 5. of this amount. The total income for the year from salvage sales were only 62% of the previous year's income. The expenditure on this service was not reduced to the same extent and we have to record a deficiency for the year of £191. 4. 0. from this source. To keep this matter in true

perspective it must be appreciated that if salvage ceased to be treated as such it would become trade and house refuse which would have to be disposed of by tipping or incineration and the major portion of these disposal costs would be chargeable to Scavenging.

In addition to the above Salvage income, the refuse tip angle-dozer has been hired out on private work, with an income from this source of £243. 15. 3.

Housing

The Council's pre-war and post-war housing programmes are summarised below for information and comparison:—

Period 1935-36

Clearance and Individual Unfit Property

The Council dealt with 175 houses.

Period 1937-39

Clearance and Individual Unfit Property

The Council dealt with 557 houses.

Period 1945-53

Tenants removed during this period from property scheduled under sections 11 and 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 129 houses.

A Ministry of Housing and Local Government Inquiry was held into the Council's application for confirmation of Clearance Areas in the Kirk Merrington Ward comprising 47 dwellinghouses. These areas were scheduled before the war and an Inquiry was held but the result was not obtained before the outbreak of hostilities. These areas have now been confirmed with modifications and 17 of the tenants were removed to new houses erected at Kirk Merrington. This estate was completed before the confirmation of these areas became operative and the Council was therefore compelled to let certain of the new houses to other than slum clearance tenants with the intention of finding other accommodation for some of them and therefore release these houses for the tenants of condemned property for whom they were intended.

Work is also in progress on the preparation of proposed Compulsory Purchase Areas comprising 131 properties in the Village of Byers Green. This land is required for the next stage of the Council's very comprehensive redevelopment programme for this Village. Work has already commenced on the first 42 houses and ultimately

it is intended to clear the Village of sub-standard houses and providing new ones for a reduced population. Surplus families will be rehoused in other housing estates—these tenants being selected with a view to reductions in their transport needs to places of employment and tenants expressing a wish to rehousing elsewhere than in the Village.

The Provision of New Houses

Period 1936-38

North Eastern Housing Association erected	...	...	280 houses.
Urban District Council erected	...	...	66 houses.

Period 1945-53

The responsibility for the erection and management of all new houses has been assumed by the Council, the North Eastern Housing Association are only responsible for the management of their existing 112 houses in the District.

This Council has erected during the post-war period the following houses:—

St. Paul's Gardens	...	...	...	...	66 houses.
Park Estate	...	...	...	...	188 „
Middlestone Moor Estate	...	...	...	...	72 „
George Street	...	...	...	...	50 „
Tudhoe Moor Estate	...	...	...	...	170 „
York Hill Estate	...	...	...	...	102 „
Kirk Merrington Estate	...	...	...	...	50 „
Wood Vue	...	...	...	...	54 „
					<hr/>
					752 houses.

The immediate building programme of the Council is summarised as follows:—

Byers Green Site	...	...	50 houses.	
Tudhoe Grange Bunaglows	...	16	„	
Middlestone Moor Site	...	600	„	) Approximate
George Street	...	50	„	) figures only.

Preliminary road and sewer works are in progress on the first stage of the Middlestone Moor Site providing nearly 400 sites and an early commencement is expected to be made with the new outfall sewer for this estate.

Housing Applications

During the year the number of applications remaining on the Council's Waiting Lists had increased to 1,041 and summarised as follows: —

2-Bedroomed Sub-tenants	...	...	233
2-Bedroomed Tenants	...	...	365
3-Bedroomed Sub-tenants	...	...	7
3-Bedroomed Tenants	...	...	168
4-Bedroomed Sub-tenants	...	...	2
4-Bedroomed Tenants	...	...	51
Bungalows (aged people)	...	...	175
Outside District Applications	...	...	40
Total			<u>1,041</u>

This List comprises applicants living and/or regularly working in the District. Other applicants not resident or working in the Urban District are placed in a separate list.

The number of families allocated new and vacated Council and North Eastern Housing Association houses during the year increased to 121 and these families were classed as follows in the waiting lists: —

2-Bedroomed Sub-tenants	...	...	38
2-Bedroomed Tenants	...	...	24
3-Bedroomed Sub-tenants	...	...	5
3-Bedroomed Tenants	...	...	27
4-Bedroomed Sub-tenants	...	...	—
4-Bedroomed Tenants	...	...	4
Bungalows (aged people)	...	...	20
Key Workers	...	...	3
Total			<u>121</u>

Factories Act, 1937

During the Year no complaints were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories of contravention in Factories. Fifteen visits were made to premises registered under Part 1 of the above Act and found to be carried on in a satisfactory manner.

Factories without Power	...	...	6
Factories with Power	...	...	48

